

American Security Council

Right-Wingers Ignite Soviet Scare, Push Defense Spending

by Bill Wallace

The American Security Council (ASC), a little known right-wing group which numbers among its members some of the most powerful figures in the U.S., is quietly lobbying Congress for increased defense spending, the Barb has learned.

"It's a huge operation and no one knows where their money comes from," said Wes McCuna, head of Group Research, an investigative organization located in Washington, which studies right-wing groups. "There's no law that requires them to make their sources of funding public.

"These people are the leaders of the military-industrial complex in this country. At one time they would have denied having any ideology, but now it's clear that they are well to the right of center."

John Marks of the Center for National Security Studies characterized ASC as "a right-wing pressure group. They are in the forefront of the Soviet arms scare campaign that's presently being used to try to increase federal defense spending."

ASC describes itself as a "non-profit research and educational association dealing solely with issues affecting our nation's security," and, as an educational organization, it enjoys tax exempt status from the federal government.

However, the group's lobbying activities on behalf of the defense industry may violate U.S. Code Title 26 and Title 26 of the Code of Federal Regulations, both of which prohibit tax-exempt organizations from lobbying federal office-holders.

ASC's lobbying apparatus includes:

- *Radio Free Americas, a Spanish-language news service which feeds to 34 radio stations throughout Latin America. According to ASC's literature, Radio Free Americas is frequently attacked for its right-wing bias by Cuban radio commentators and Granma newspaper.

- *Washington Reports, a national radio program "exclusively devoted to developments affecting the security of this nation and the rest of the free world," according to ASC.

- *Washington Report, a slick newsletter about "national security affairs" put together by ASC staffers and mailed to governmental decision-makers all over the country.

Marks told the Barb that much of the information ASC uses in its "research

and educational" activities is leaked to it from the U.S. intelligence community. "They've been a conduit for the CIA for years," he said.

Marks said that Lee Pennington, one of ASC's research staffers, was named in the Baker Report to the Senate Watergate Committee as the man responsible for the destruction of White House Plumber E. Howard Hunt's CIA files.

In addition to its communications apparatus, McCuna told the Barb the group also has "a highly sophisticated computerized direct-mail operation for influencing public opinion on national se-

is Dr. Edward Teller, the "father of the American H-bomb." Teller is director emeritus of Lawrence Livermore Laboratory which contracts with the Pentagon to develop nuclear warheads and other weapons, and he also sits on several federal advisory boards which deal with military and U.S. intelligence operations.

Several top intelligence officials are also ASC members, including James Angleton, former head of the CIA's counter-intelligence branch, and Generals Daniel Graham and Joseph Carroll, both past directors of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

ASC boasts a dozen high-ranking mili-

tary officers among its members, including Gen. Lyman Lemnitzer (former head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff), Gen. Bruce Holloway (ex-Commander-in-chief of the Strategic Air Command) and Gen. Paul Harkins (ex-head of the Military Assistance Command in Vietnam).

The group also includes such corporate representatives as Robert Galvin, head of the \$1.31 billion-a-year Motorola Corporation (Motorola received more than \$61 million worth of defense contracts in 1975 alone), and Clifford Hood, a former president of U.S. Steel Corporation, which produces steel armor, structural components and strategic minerals such as titanium, molybdenum and nickel for the U.S. military.

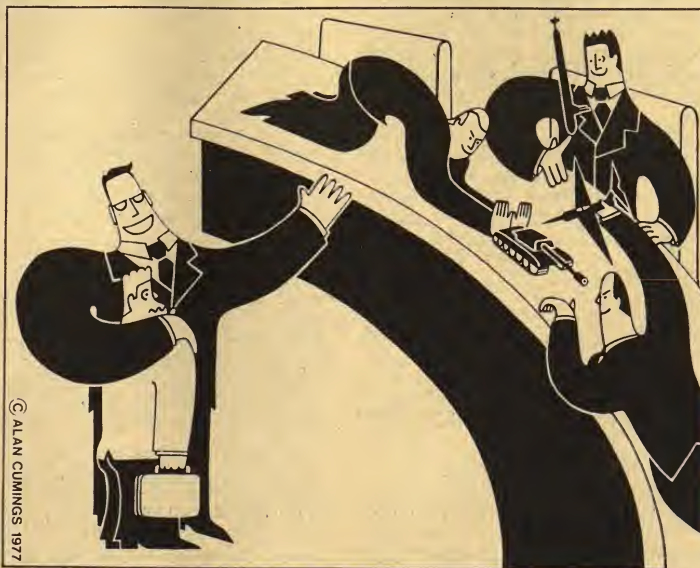
"The American Security Council is satisfied to act as the spearhead of the military industrial complex," McCuna said, "by agitating for ever-increasing defense spending and setting up seminars for outsiders featuring retired military and Department of State people, plus representatives of the other security services."

ASC's most recent lobbying center is a heavily-biased poll which is to be used in the group's efforts to influence President Jimmy Carter and Congress. According to a January 12, 1977 letter obtained by the Barb, to members from ASC President John Fisher, the poll is being commissioned "because the new administration needs to know that people like you and me really want America to be militarily secure against its enemies."

The poll, Fisher wrote, "will alert millions of Americans to what has happened to our nation's defenses" through a massive direct mail public relations blitz and at the same time "provide an organized two-way communications link between Americans like you and me and official Washington."

The poll includes such loaded questions as, "Should the U.S. give up its control over the Panama Canal?" "Do the American people have the right to be fully informed about the goals and activities of organizations which are dedicated to the overthrow of the U.S. government by force?" And, "Should the House Internal Security Committee be re-established as a separate committee (from the Judiciary Committee, where it was placed in 1974)?"

The results of the poll will be used in a complicated lobbying scheme involving computerized mailings to members of Congress and the Senate, according to a newsletter. The letter makes it clear that the poll is not intended to represent an objective assessment of public opinion on the subject of defense: "We (ASC) believe that most Americans support a strong national defense against communist aggression, but we can't prove it without your cooperation in this poll."



"DON'T WORRY ABOUT PARTISANSHIP, SENATOR.
OUR FIRM HAS PERSONNEL
FROM ALL THE ARMED FORCES."

curity issues. They have used it in the past to blitz Congress with literature about the missile gap, arms limitation talks and other defense spending matters. This system is really incredible -- and very effective."

The group's members are closely tied to the Pentagon and military armament and equipment contractors which deal with the armed forces. One local member

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